

Finding out more

We have only touched on various aspects of the history of the USAAF in Essex during the Second World War. Ever since the War finished, much has been written about the airfields and the Bomb and Fighter Groups but much less on how the Americans interacted with the locals. The Essex Record Office holds some material, including sound recordings, along with several books in its library. Here is a select list of some of those resources, along with other links pointing those interested in finding out more in the right direction:

ERO (including recordings from the Essex Sound and Video Archive)

A10980, research notes of the late Bryan Jones on Boreham Airfield

A15748, records of the late Robert (Bob) Mynn, including Buddies of the Ninth Association

SA268, audio interviews with G. Sidwell, A. Momme, B. Olsen and C. Griffin, 394th BG Association

SA966, audio interview with Geraldine Brunt, April 2024

R. Freeman, *UK Airfields of the Ninth Then and Now*, ERO Library, 358.4

R. Freeman, *Airfields of the Eighth Then and Now*, ERO Library, 940.54

K. Rust, *The 9th Air Force in World War II*, ERO Library, 940.544973

D. Francis, *Flak Bait: the story of the B-26 bombers ...* ERO Library 940.544973

Places to visit in Essex

Boxted Airfield Museum: www.boxted-airfield.com/boxted-airfield-museum

Ridgewell Airfield Museum: www.rafcamuseum.co.uk/

Videos to watch

Marauders of the Ninth U.S.A.F.—a double header attack: www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBNazOhW8A. (Andrews Field)

Air Force—Airfield England: www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4Ochi8RY_I. (Earls Colne)

US 9th Air Force: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zc8S1PiD41w. (D-Day Marauders)

WWII US Bombers: <https://www.youtube.com/@WWIIUSBombers/videos>

Aerial Photos and Photos from the US National Archives and Records Administration

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/photographs/usaaf-collection/>

<https://catalog.archives.gov/>

Other

Bures Forward Ammunition Depot: www.bures.me.uk/FAD/trialpage.htm.

WELCOME TO ESSEX: REMEMBERING THE USAAF



Welcome to Essex: remembering the USAAF

a part-day mini-conference

Saturday 27th April, 2024

10:00-10:30: Coffee & registration

10:30-10:35: Welcome

Martin Astell, ERO Manager

10:35-10:50: April 1944: an overview

Neil Wiffen

10:50-11:10: Building an airfield: shaping the landscape

Neil Wiffen

11:10-11:30: A contemporary view of the Americans

Dr Catherine Pearson

11:30-11:50: The impact of the Americans: family stories

Alan Crouchman

11:50-12:00: Comfort break

12:00-12:20: *Baby Doll III*: remembering an Essex wartime night of tragedy

Neil McCarthy

12:20-12:40: *Flak Bait*: a miraculous survival

Alan Crouchman

12:40-12:55: Remembering the USAAF locally

Neil Wiffen

**12:55-13:25: The Cambridge American Cemetery at Madingley:
remembering the Americans today**

Suzie Harrison

13:25-13:30: ~BONUS CONTENT~ Geraldine, Marauder and girl!

Neil Wiffen

13:30-13:35: Closing remarks

Martin Astell

Front cover illustrations: American Red Cross Club at the Saracen's Head Hotel. (ERO, D/F 269/1/552);

Lt Henry C Patrick III (1919-44), by courtesy of Alan Crouchman.



Above: A crowded dining room at the American Red Cross Service Club located in the Saracen's Head Hotel, as photographed by Fred Spalding. Several of the men are sporting Ninth Air Force shoulder patches. (ERO, SCN 547)

Right: The front cover of *Welcome To Essex*, a pamphlet produced by the Essex War Welfare Committee in 'the hope that it will create pleasant memories of their stay in the ancient kingdom of the East Saxons.' (Copy in ERO Library, LIB/942.67 WEL)

Below: Martin B-26F-1-MA Marauder 42-96319, H9*T, *George's Jester* of the 586th Bomb Squadron, 394th Bomb Group, post D-Day, probably at Boreham. This B-26 would survive the war having flown 95 missions. (With thanks to Paul Clouting for this information. ERO, A10950, Box 1)

